

#12
1/14/04
f.nu

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the
USPTO at (703) 872-9326 on the date shown below.
JANUARY 9, 2004 Francis C. Hand
Date Francis C. Hand

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 09 2004

OFFICIAL

Art Unit 3637

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: ROBERT D. VANDERMINDEN

Serial No: 09/895,950

Filed: June 29, 2001

TITLE: UMBRELLA TILT MECHANISM

Customer No.: 27162

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 31, 2003,

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-15 and 17-24 remain in this application.

Acknowledgement is made of the allowability of dependent claim 18.

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected as being anticipated by Schmidt. Note is made that claim 1 has been rejected in four separate Office Actions. Accordingly, it is requested that this application be made SPECIAL. (See MPEP 707.02(a))

The Examiner alleges that Schmidt shows a catch 4 mounted *in* a tubular member 2. Issue is taken in this respect. As illustrated in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, Schmidt shows a member 4 fitting over the lower end of an upper staff section 2. This member 4 receives the end of the staff section 2 and has a bifurcated end comprising two legs 6. Thus, the alleged "catch" 4 is not mounted in the member 2 but, rather, is mounted over the member 2.